

REMARKS

Summary of Office Action

Applicants' claims 1-18 are currently pending in the above-identified patent application, claims 15-18 having been added by the present Amendment.

The Examiner rejected independent claims 1, 5, 8, and 11 and dependent claims 2, 4, 7, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,907,276 B2 (hereinafter "Toba").

Further, the Examiner rejected independent claims 9 and 13 and dependent claims 10 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Toba in view of United States Patent Application No. US2002-0119768 A1 (hereinafter "Matsumoto").

Further, the Examiner rejected dependent claims 3 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Toba in view of United States Patent No. 6,658,272 (hereinafter "Lenchick").

Applicants' Reply to the Rejection of the Claims

35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner rejected independent claims 1, 5, 8, and 11 and dependent claims 2, 4, 7, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Toba. Applicants submit the following remarks wherein the Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

In rejecting independent claims 1, 5, 8 and 11, the Examiner asserts that all of the elements of these claims are shown in Toba. *Office Action, Page 3-6*. However, Applicants respectfully submit that Toba fails to show or suggest switching the non-input screen visible in the portable terminal's closed state to the input screen visible in the portable terminal's open state. The non-input screen is similar to an email in-box and the input screen corresponds to a mail item previously selected on the non-input screen before the portable terminal was opened and the display switched.

In the claimed invention, the display unit is at least viewable when the portable terminal is in its closed state. When a message, mail or the like is received by the portable terminal device, it notifies the user of the new message by showing, among other things, the senders information on the display unit. The display in the portable terminal's closed state is similar to an email in-box and allows the user to highlight the messages received using a control

located on the portable terminal. After the message is selected the user then switches the portable terminal into its open state. When the control unit in the portable terminal detects that the terminal is switching to the open state, the display switches from its closed non-input mode to its open input mode. The input mode corresponds to the item previously highlighted before the portable terminal was opened and allows the user to immediately begin drafting a response to the highlighted message on the input unit contained in the housing.

Toba, on the other hand, fails to teach or suggest that the display can be switched from a non-input mode in a mobile communication terminal's closed state to an input mode in the mobile communication terminal's open state. Instead, Toba simply teaches that a non-input screen shown on an external display in the mobile communication terminal's closed state is shown on the internal or main display unit when the mobile communication terminal is opened. Thus, with respect to independent Claim 1, Toba fails to teach or suggest the limitation stating that "when said detecting means detects opening of either of said housings, said control means changes said screen of said display unit to an input screen." Likewise, Toba fails to teach or suggest similar limitations of Claims 5, 8 and 11. Consequently, Toba does not anticipate independent claims 1, 5, 8, and 11, and these claims are believed to be patentable over the prior art of record.

Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 2, 4, 7 and 12 are believed to define patentable subject matter in view of their dependency upon allowable Claims 1, 5, and 11 and, further, on their own merits.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected independent claims 9 and 13 and dependent claims 10 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Toba in view of Matsumoto. Applicants submit the following remarks wherein the Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

The subject matter of independent claims 9 and 13 is directed to a display that switches from a non-input screen to an input screen when either the housing enclosing the display unit or the housing enclosing the input unit are opened. When a message, mail or the like is received by the portable terminal device, it notifies the user of the new message by showing, among other things, the senders information on the display unit. The display in the portable terminal's closed state is similar to an email in-box and allows the user to highlight the messages received using a control located on the portable terminal. After the message is selected the user then changes the portable terminal into its open state. When the control unit in the portable

terminal detects that the terminal is switching to the open state, the display switches from its closed non-input mode to its open input mode. The input mode corresponds to the item previously highlighted before the portable terminal was opened and allows the user to immediately begin drafting a response to the highlighted message on the input unit contained in the housing.

Toba, on the other hand, fails to teach or suggest that the display can be switched from a non-input mode in a mobile communication terminal's closed state to a input mode in the mobile communication terminal's open state. Instead, Toba simply teaches that a non-input screen shown on an external display in the mobile communication terminal's closed state is shown on the internal or main display unit when the mobile communication terminal is opened.

Matsumoto, likewise, fails to suggest switching from a non-input screen to an input screen when the portable terminal is opened. Matsumoto teaches a portable telephone having a text input function, that gives the user the ability to take a note when a communication cannot be established when a call is made, and displaying an input screen when the user opts to take a note. Thus, neither Toba nor Matsumoto either individually or in combination suggest to someone skilled in the art switching a screen from a non-input mode to an input mode when the user opens the previously closed portable terminal. Therefore, Claims 9 and 13 are believed to be patentable over the prior art of record.

Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 10 and 14 are believed to define patentable subject matter in view of their dependency upon allowable Claims 9 and 13 and, further, on their own merits.

Claims 3 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Toba in view of Lenchick. The Applicant respectfully disagrees and submits that dependent Claims 3 and 6 are believed to define patentable subject matter in view of their dependency upon allowable Claims 1 and 5 and, further, on their own merits.

Conclusion

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention as defined by independent claim 1, claims 2, 3 and 4 which depend therefrom, and independent claim , claims 6 and 7 which depends therefrom, and independent claim 8, and independent claim 9, claim 10 which depends therefrom, and independent claim 11, claim 12 which depends

therefrom, and independent claim 13, claim 14 which depends therefrom are patentable over the cited references.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that this patent application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and prompt allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is urged to telephone Applicants' undersigned counsel at the number noted below if it will advance the prosecution of this application, or with any suggestion to resolve any condition that would impede allowance. In the event that any extension of time is required, Applicant petitions for that extension of time required to make this response timely. Kindly charge any additional fee, or credit any surplus, to Deposit Account No. 50-0675, Order No. 848075-0057.

Respectfully submitted,

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